



# First record of the cf. Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis* cf. *delattrei* (Aves, Trochilidae), from Brazil

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## Abstract

The Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis delattrei* (Lesson, 1839), and the Spangled Coquette, *Lophornis stictolophus* Salvin & Elliot, 1873, are 2 very similar species with a green back and orange forehead. On 9 August 2017, a hummingbird with an orange forehead was observed and photographed in the Serra do Divisor (Acre, Brazil). Analysis of the photographs revealed that the individual presented the diagnostic characteristics of a female of the *Lophornis delattrei/stictolophus* group. We assumed that the observed specimen represented *Lophornis* cf. *delattrei*, given the greater proximity of the geographic range of this species to the new locality. The presence of this *Lophornis* in Acre represents the occurrence of a new hummingbird taxon for Brazil.

## Key words

Hummingbird; Serra do Divisor; range extension; Brazilian state of Acre.

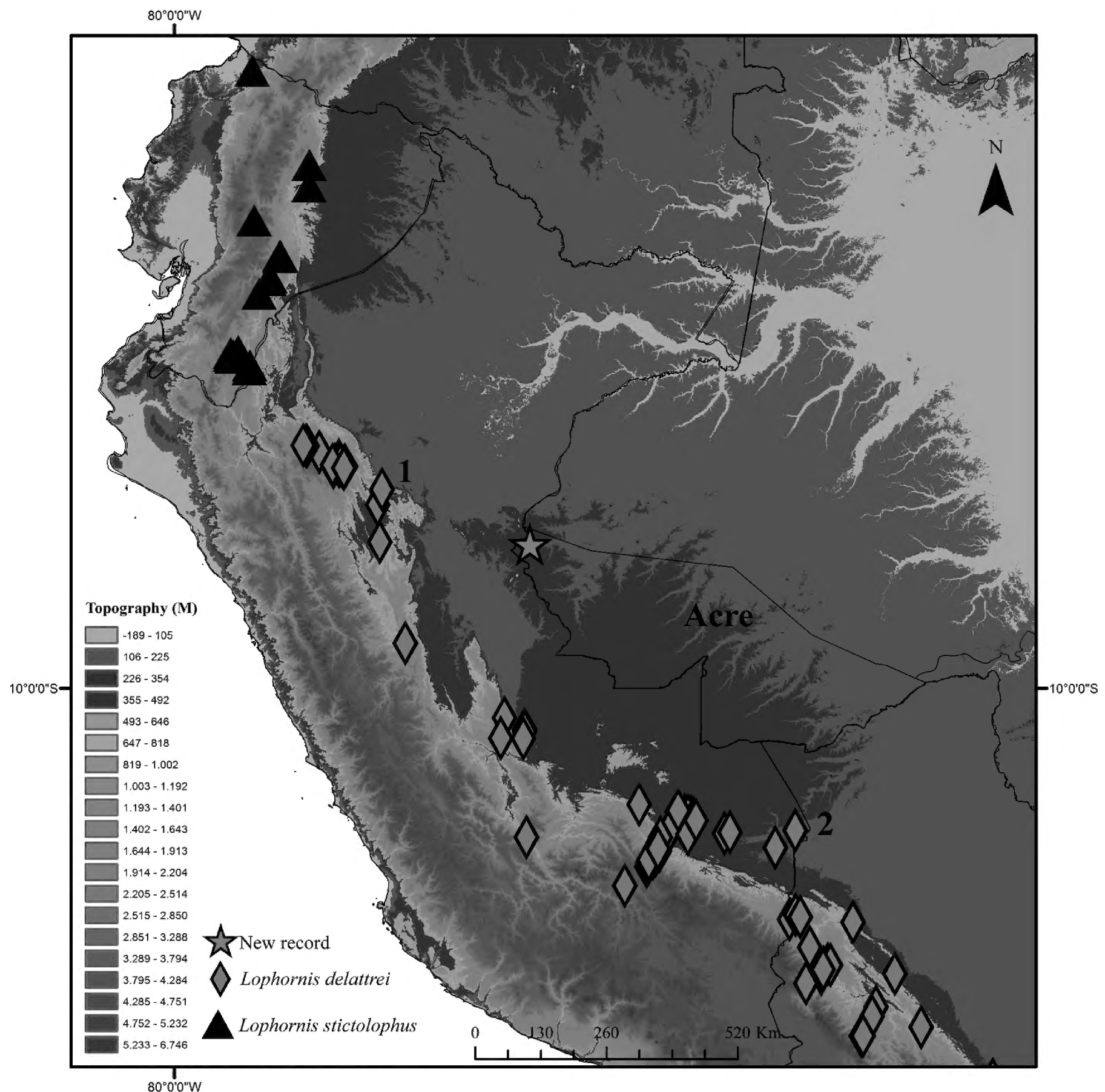
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## Introduction

The genus *Lophornis* includes a number of unique hummingbirds which, together with *Discosura*, form a distinct group within the family Trochilidae. These birds are characterized by their short bill, rounded tail, and marked sexual dimorphism. In most species, the males present an elongated crest, and an ornamented and iridescent throat, with feathers extending outwards laterally in the form of a fan (Schuchmann 1999, Restall et al. 2006). The

genus *Lophornis* currently contains 10 species, of which 5 occur in Brazil (Schuchmann 1999, Piacentini et al. 2015). The Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis delattrei* (Lesson, 1839), is rare throughout its geographic range (Schuchmann 1999, Restall et al. 2006, Schulenberg et al. 2007). Two subspecies are recognized, *Lophornis delattrei lessoni* Simon, 1921, which is found in Colombia and Panama, and *Lophornis delattrei delattrei* (Lesson, 1839), which occurs in the Andean foothills of Bolivia and Peru and is probably also the race present in Ecuador (Zimmer



**Figure 1.** Geographic distribution of the Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis delattrei*, and Spangled Coquette, *Lophornis stictolophus*. The yellow diamonds indicate the existing records of the Rufous-crested Coquette and the black triangles, the Spangled Coquette (obtained from GBIF, 2017). Site 1 is the locality of La Escalera, in the vicinity of the town of Tarapoto, in the department of San Martin in Peru, while site 2 is the Eco Amazonia Lodge in the Tambopata National Reserve, in the department of Madre de Dios, also in Peru. The pink star indicates the site where the new record was made.

1950, Schuchmann 1999, Ridgely and Greenfield 2006). *Lophornis delattrei* is found mainly at altitudes of between 600 and 2,000 m above sea level (a.s.l.) in forest edges, clearings, and habitats that have suffered anthropogenic impacts (Schuchmann 1999). The male presents an elongated orange crest with long, narrow feathers. The tufted bib of the male is less conspicuous than that found in the males of other *Lophornis* species. The female is similar to the male, but lacks the elongated crest and the tufted bib. The closely related Spangled Coquette, *Lophornis stictolophus* (Salvin and Elliot, 1873), is found in the Andes between northern Peru and eastern Ecuador, and western Venezuela. The principal morphological features that distinguish these species are found in the crest of the males (Schuchmann 1999).

## Methods

The record reported here is based on an observation by RAAP, LFAF and RFR, made during a birdwatching trip to the Serra do Divisor, in the western extreme of the Brazilian state of Acre (Fig. 1). The species was identified based on the photographs taken by these authors.

## Results

**New record.** Brazil, Mâncio Lima (07°27'00" S, 073°40'00" W), RAAP, LFAF and RFR, 9 August 2017, 16h15, photographed, 1 individual.

A hummingbird with an orange forehead was sighted in the garden of Pousada do Miro (Miro's Guesthouse) on the right bank of the Moa River. The bird was perched



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**Figures 2, 3.** Cf. Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis* cf. *delattrei*. Note the orange forehead and the tail with blackish subterminal bar. Photographs by Roseanne de Fátima Ramos.

on a fine branch of an *Inga* sp. tree. The hummingbird remained on this perch for approximately 5 minutes, allowing it to be photographed (Figs. 2, 3).

**Identification.** Unfortunately, the lighting conditions for photographing were poor, but it was possible to discern the characteristics of the hummingbird from the images. The analysis of the photographs revealed that it presented traits diagnostic of a female *Lophornis* of the *delattrei/stictolophus* group, that is, forehead to rear crown orange, crest not elongated, untufted bib, tail rounded with cinnamon feathers with a blackish subterminal bar (except for the central feathers), and white thighs (Schuchmann 1999, Restall et al. 2006; Figs 2, 3).

## Discussion

In Peru, the Rufous-crested Coquette is found in the eastern Andes at altitudes of between 500 m and 1,900 m a.s.l. (Walker et al. 2006, Schulenberg et al. 2007). Recent records of the species from the Tambopata National Reserve, in the department of Madre de Dios, in southeastern Peru, indicate that the species is also found in the lowland forests of the foothills of the Andes, at altitudes below 200 m (GBIF 2017; see Fig. 1, locality 2). The Serra do Divisor in Acre is an extension of the Contamana range in Peru, with altitudes up to 600 m (Acre 2000), which is consistent with the altitudes at which *L. delattrei* is known to occur (Fig. 1). The recent records of *L. delattrei* that are closest to the site of the observation reported here are from the Department of San Martín in Peru, in the vicinity of the towns of Tarapoto (GBIF 2017; see Fig. 1, locality 1) and Moyobamba (Bocos 2012, Oti 2012). Moyobamba is also considered the type locality of the nominotypical *L. d. delattrei* (Zimmer 1950). Tarapoto and Moyobamba are located approximately 380

and 392 km away, respectively, in a straight line from Miro's Guesthouse in the Serra do Divisor, Acre. The photographs taken of the specimen do not show its dorsal region clearly (Fig. 3), which would have permitted a more definitive evaluation of its morphology. In addition, this specimen is either a female or, possibly, a juvenile, which means that the plumage is virtually indistinguishable between the 2 species, *L. delattrei* and *L. stictolophus* (Schulenberg et al. 2007). While we believe that the specimen is a representative of the *delattrei* form, based on the geographic distribution of this taxon (Fig. 1), it is not possible to define the species conclusively, based only on the photographic record. In this case, 2 other possibilities should be considered: (a) that the photographed specimen represents the *stictolophus* form, considering that *stictolophus* may substitute *delattrei* ecologically at lower altitudes, in the foothills of the Andes (Schuchmann 1999), or (b) the specimen photographed represents a third, as yet undescribed taxon. The latter possibility is supported by the fact that some endemic animal species have been described recently (Whitney et al. 2004, Brown and Twomey 2009) from the region of Serra do Divisor in Acre, and Contamana in Peru, indicating that these ranges may be unique biogeographic units. While we cannot rule out the last 2 hypotheses altogether, we assume that the bird is a Rufous-crested Coquette, denominating it as *Lophornis* cf. *delattrei*, based on the geographic proximity of the known range of this species, approximately 380 km, vs 600 km in the case of *L. stictolophus*. We highlight the need for preserved specimens to determine more definitively the taxonomic identity of the Serra do Divisor population. In recent years, Acre has been the focus of numerous ornithological surveys and birdwatching excursions (Guilherme 2016), which have resulted in an increasing inventory of bird spe-



cies, including a number of taxa that are new to Brazil (Whittaker and Oren 1999, Guilherme 2012, 2016). As for a number of other bird species that were previously thought to occur only in the foothills of the Andes, but were recently recorded in Acre, such as Yellow-cheeked Becard, *Pachyramphus xanthogenys* Salvadori & Festa, 1898 (Aleixo et al. 2008), Tschudi's Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus chunchotambo* (Tschudi, 1844) (Guilherme and Aleixo 2008), White-cheeked Tody-Flycatcher, *Poecilatriccus albifacies* (Blake, 1959) (Zimmer et al. 2010) and Fine-barred Piculet, *Picumnus subtilis* Stager, 1968 (Rego et al. 2009), the present record indicates that the region is still under-sampled, and that many additional taxa, including other trochilids (Piacentini and Ribenboim 2017), may still be discovered in this frontier region of western Brazil, which borders Peru and Bolivia. These new records from Acre further consolidate the status of Brazil as one of the 3 New World countries with the greatest bird diversity.

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## Authors' Contributions

RAAP, LFAF, and RFR recorded the bird in the field. EG identified the species and wrote the text.

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